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The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 13 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Group in New York, I have the honour to transmit herewith a press release dated 12 December 2006 from the OIC Secretary General (annex I), and another dated 13 December 2006 from the OIC General Secretariat (annex II) concerning the so-called "constitutional referendum" held on 10 December 2006 in the occupied Nagorny-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference rejects the outcome of the referendum, which was against international law and will undermine existing international efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement of the dispute.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes were urgently distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 27, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 13 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Organization of the Islamic Conference rejects the outcome of the election in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh

The Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference(OIC) Prof.Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu has expressed the OIC's rejection the outcome of the recent election in Nagorno-Karabakh ,stating that the election was against International Law particularly the Geneva Convention.

Prof.Ihsanoglu in a statement today noted such referendum has not only created a new problem but also complicated the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He emphasized that the latest development will undermine the existing international efforts seeking to achieve a negotiated settlement of the dispute.

The Secretary General , while reiterating that lasting peace could only can be reached through negotiation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenian side, also restated the determination of the OIC to remain engaged in finding an acceptable solution to the territorial dispute.

Jeddah 12th December 2006.

Annex II to the letter dated 13 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Organization of the Islamic Conference spokesman Ambassador Atta El-Manane termed the so-called referendum in Nagorno Karabakh against the norms and principles of international law

The OIC Spokesman replying to media, reiterated the OIC's rejection of the outcome of the recent "referendum" in Nagorno Karabakh.

The Spokesman said that the so-called "referendum" gravely violates relevant norms and principles of international law, and interferes with an ongoing peace process. This act and its results therefore have no legal effect.

He underlined that the OIC is well aware of the occupation and ethnic cleansing carried out by the Armenian armed forces against peaceful Azerbaijani population in the Nagorno Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

He said the OIC fully recognizes sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In compliance with the relevant OIC documents, including the Baku Declaration, adopted by the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, we once again strongly condemn the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan and urge immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

He emphasized that any constitutional document envisaging a self-rule for the population of the Nagorno Karabakh region can only be elaborated through a legal, democratic and peaceful process with a full, equal and direct participation of the entire population of the region consisting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities.

Jeddah: 13 December 2006.